

# ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension  
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NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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As of April 1, 2006

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of April 1, 2006 totaled 80,000 cwt. This was 48 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 93,000 cwt or 53 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2003 level for the April 1 stocks was 52,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for April 1 is 76,300 cwt.

Disappearance since January 1 was 38,000 cwt, compared to 33,000 cwt for the same period last year. The five year average disappearance between January and April is 40,500 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to April 1 totaled 86,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 84,000 cwt. The five year average disappearance is 95,300 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purpose and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2006, down 11 percent from last year and 9 percent below April 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 31 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 259 million cwt of potatoes is down 5 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 21.6 million cwt so far this season, is down 20 percent from last year for comparable States. Processors in the 9 major States have used 133 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 27.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 9 percent from last year and 10 percent below the same date in 2004.

**WESTERN STATES** held 85.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, down 7 percent from last year. Idaho's potato stocks are down 18 percent from last year, Colorado's potato sheds held 13 percent less than last year, Montana's stocks dropped 11 percent from last season, and stocks in California decreased 22 percent from 2005. Washington's potato stocks are up 11 percent from last year and Oregon's stocks increased 37 percent from last season.

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# ALASKA POTATO STOCKS – APRIL 1, 2006

	STOCKS				PRODUCTION	April 1 Stocks as Percent of Production
	APR 1	MAR 1	FEB 1	JAN 1		
	----- 1,000 Cwt -----					-- Percent --
2005	80.0	93.0	106.0	118.0	166.0	48%
2004	93.0	106.0	114.0	126.0	177.0	53%
2003	52.0	62.0	71.0	90.0	168.0	31%

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